



CITY OF DANBURY
FIRE DEPARTMENT
19 NEW STREET
DANBURY, CONNECTICUT 06810

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FIRE CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT

I hereby submit my report as Fire Chief of the Danbury Fire Department, which covers the period of 21 October through 21 November and details activities of the Department.

The month began with the city under the debilitating effects of the Halloween weekend snow storm. The most severe effects of the storm were long term power outages to our citizens and road closures. Some 36 hours after the onset of the storm we were aware of 290 road and street closures or restrictions due to downed wires and tree limbs. This situation slowed emergency response to all calls as responding apparatus needed to navigate the various obstructions and approach scenes using different routing so as to assure access. Fortunately, there were no serious fires or response incidents made worse by the travel issues.

Critical responses rose during this time to many different types and natures of emergencies. But most concerning were the high number of calls generated as a result of Carbon Monoxide exposures. Carbon monoxide is an odorless and colorless gas produced during combustion. This gas can be deadly to humans when present in sufficient quantities.

Repeated CO incidents indicated that our citizens need to be better informed of the risks created by this deadly gas. Several calls originated from poorly running ill-tuned generators which produce a lot of exhaust. Others developed from poorly situated generators that allowed exhaust into living environments. Some seem unaware that the exhaust should not be close to or facing the home, nor should the generator be in the garage or basement.

Not all CO emergencies were the result of generators however. In one instance, a poorly maintained oil fired furnace was the culprit. In this case, 9 residents of a single home were transported to the hospital for treatment. An unusual and unexpected concern arose that was new to us. Some CO detectors are reported by homeowners to be indicating "97", causing concern that there are elevated levels of CO. In actuality, they are holding the detector upside down and it is displaying Lb...for "low battery".

PUBLIC EDUCATION/PREVENTION/PUBLIC RELATIONS

E-21 went to Immanuel Lutheran School to present a fire safety talk to the preschool and kindergarten class.

E-26 did several fire safety presentations at Mill Ridge Primary School while assisting DFM Perry and DFM Leach.

E-21 attended Kids Day at Rogers Park Middle School. They showed the engine and talked about fire safety.

The department continued this month with our High School Outreach familiarization program. This program began two years ago. Members of the department visit the area High Schools to inform senior students of the opportunity for a career in the fire service. We visited each of the three high schools during the past weeks.

Members of the department responded to the home of a resident of Danbury Commons. This visit was to educate the woman in the use of a recently purchased fire extinguisher. Our crews stand ready to assist with this type of citizen assistance at all times. Our crews are also distributing and installing smoke detectors and batteries in situations where there are none present or they are not functional.

SUPPRESSION/RESPONSE ACTIVITIES OF NOTE

On 24 Oct, Squad 23 and C30 responded to Danbury Hospital ED to assist with the removal of a plumbing fitting stuck on a child's finger. Dispatch received a request for help with removing a faucet type aerator from a boy's finger. Lt. Miguel and FF's Croswell and Sedgewick responded with the die grinder and other hand tools to help with the removal. They were able to successfully remove the ring from the finger with no further injury to the patient.

On 24 Oct, E21 responded to Glen apartments for a reported medical alert. Upon arrival they were met by the tenant who reported she had a small kitchen fire in progress. E21 was able to extinguish the fire and called for FM Johnson to investigate both the fire and the reason there was no fire detected or reported by the alarm company.

On 25 Oct, an MVA was reported at Balmforth and Garamella. E23, E22, Squad 24, E10 and C30 responded to the scene. Upon arrival E23 found a vehicle

lying on the passenger side with the driver trapped in her seat. They and DPD units were able to tie off the vehicle while waiting for the squad to respond. The roof was removed and then the driver was extricated. E22 provided a driver to the ER and E23, Squad 24 and C30 remained on scene until the vehicle could be removed from the sidewalk and all hazards were removed.

On 2 November units responded to Cherokee Dr. This call at 08:13 was a structure fire with limited extension. The homeowner drove to Station 25 to report a fire in his home. He was without power and had no cell service. E25 arrived to find a smoke condition and identified burning above the living room fireplace. A picture on the mantle had been reduced to a deeply charred semblance of its former self. The wall was opened and the fire extinguished. DFMs Osborne and Perry investigated. It appeared as though deteriorated masonry in the chimney was the cause of the fire. No injuries were reported.

The most significant response this month occurred on 6 Nov. This was an MVA roll-over with extrication required on route 84 eastbound approaching exit 3. Units responding included E22, E26, Sq23, Trk-1, Medic1, C-30, CSP and volunteer companies 13 and 6. The incident involved a school van en route from NYC to Waterbury. The vehicle went off the highway and down an embankment at a high rate of speed. The vehicle rolled over and hit several trees. There were a total of 11 victims in the vehicle. The accident resulted in 2 fatalities, 3 serious injuries and 6 minor injuries. The response required mutual aid from Ridgefield, Stony Hill, Danbury Ambulance, and Brookfield for ambulance units. Crews remained on scene to assist with body recovery and the CSP accident investigation. FF Kevin Lunnie proved himself by performing exemplary duty during this call as he entered the van and worked amongst the entrapped victims and the 2 fatalities while other units stabilized the van and then extricated the victims. All units from all involved agencies worked seamlessly together and a very difficult extrication was performed in a very short period of time. This combined team effort ensured timely treatment and transportation for the injured victims.

Command and Staff Activities

- Labor Management Seminar with UPFFA
- DEMHS Region 5 ESF 4 meeting
- DEMHS Region 5 ESF10 meeting
- Meeting with HR regarding Promotional exams
- Firefighter Candidate interviews
- Career Chiefs meeting
- Mayors Leadership
- Architect re: HQ redesign

Donations

The department received the following donations during the month:

\$1000.00 from Mel Powers of Powers Construction
\$ 200.00 Patricia Giurgeson

\$ 200.00 Ladies of the Moose Lodge for smoke detectors

Communications/911 - Patrick Sniffin

During this period the City of Danbury and the entire State of Connecticut was hit with an early snowstorm of historic proportions. During the early afternoon of October 29th snow began to fall with increasing intensity as the afternoon progressed. By 2:00 pm 911 call volume had risen dramatically and many city roadways were clogged with slowed traffic and numerous spin-out accidents.

As the wet heavy snow piled up 911 calls reporting wires down and fallen trees became incessant. Day shift dispatchers were held over and throughout the night worked tirelessly to answer the highest number of 911 calls ever received in Danbury in the time frame. Adding to that challenge was the fact that during the evening as power was lost to area towns, Danbury began to process all 911 calls from Bethel with sporadic calls coming from Newtown and Brookfield.

Throughout the days following the storm Fire dispatchers served in a number of capacities from receiving calls, disseminating outage information to power companies, aiding EMS with welfare checks and a myriad of other critical information tasks.

911 Calls Received – October 29 to Nov 1, 2011

City	# of Calls	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Saturday
UNKNOWN	2	1			1
BETHEL	86	53	2	3	28
BROOKFIELD	20	10	1	1	8
DANBURY	1144	296	199	121	528
NEW FAIRFIELD	65	12	9	7	37
NEWTOWN	4		1	2	1
REDDING	1		1		
RIDGEFIELD	8	1	2	3	2
SOUTHBURY	1	1			
WILTON	1			1	
Total:	1332	374	215	138	605

There were 1172 calls received on 7-digit emergency numbers and approximately 1000 calls received on 7-digit routine numbers. In addition to the calls listed above there were 282 reported instances of wires down with no indication of active sparking that were logged and passed onto utility companies for investigation due to lack of FD resources. Callers advised to call back with any change of status. During the 36 hours following the onset of the storm there were at least 290 streets that were restricted or impassable due to trees, wires or other hazardous conditions.

Key call types were;

Reported Structure Fires - 7

Investigations of Hazards – 25

CO Detector no Symptoms -15

CO Detector with Symptoms 2

Automatic Fire Alarm Sounding - 40

Electrical Wires Down (Arcing/Sparking) – 70

These statistics are but a brief snapshot of the sheer volume of activity in the Fire Department PSAP during this storm. In the near future a more detailed report about this storm response and also of Tropical Storm Irene relating to 911 Services will be released.

Again it must be noted that the members of all of Danbury's Emergency Services worked with a high degree of professionalism under extremely difficult conditions to insure the life safety of residents and visitors to this great city.

Training - Mark Omasta

Volunteer Division

Along with the terrific storm response:

Volunteer Fire Fighter Brian Dubicki with King St. Engine 14 passed all of the State of CT exams and is now certified at the Fire Fighter 1 level.

Jason Sherwood of Miry Brook Engine 13 passed his national exams and is now an EMT-B.

Fourth quarter training is in progress. All companies are participating in live burns and related drills at our Fire School facility on Plumtrees Road. Training continues through December 4.

Members of Squad 7 attended all of the live burns for the Career division to provide air for our SCBA.

Volunteer Firefighters Eric Svege, Dan Cohn, and Lucio LaDuca successfully completed the 96 hour Fire Officer I certification class and will take the certification exam at the end of November.

FF Mike Rocco of Mill Plain Eng 12 is providing pallets through F&M electric for use at our burn building.

Career Division

Driver/Operators

Fire Fighter Jordon Sherman completed the Pump Operator/Driver qualification requirements in late October.

Fire School- improvements-repairs

A new heavy duty steel plate door and header was fabricated and installed in the basement burn room. The storage trailer was moved to the rear of the property giving us more room near the burn building.

FF Jim Lillis fabricated and installed a hay burning smoker on the exterior of the building. This replaces his original interior "smoker" and frees up room and manpower. November is the busiest month for live burn training for our dept and for the surrounding towns.

Fire Officer I

Danbury is hosting the Ct Fire Academy's "Fire Officer I class" through the end of November. We have 9 career and 3 volunteer FF's in the class along with 6 volunteer fire fighters from area departments.

Fire Officer II

Capt. Ron Bowers completed the 80 hour Fire Officer II class in Harwinton and is awaiting the results of the certification exam.

Safety Officer

Lt. Dan Gregory and FF Gary Bruce completed the National Fire Academy Incident Safety Officer course.

CIRMA defensive Driving class

All crews are participating in this defensive driving class and review presented by the City's Workers Comp carrier.

Hose Testing- Hydrant testing

Annual hose testing is in progress for all crews and volunteer departments. The Career dept. is 95% complete.

Live Burns

All crews completed the mandatory live burn training during November. Crews concentrated on communications and Accountability during the training.

Safety Officer Assignments

The T.O was called in as Safety officer for structure fires on Cherokee Dr and Westwood Dr.

Meetings/ events for the T.O.:

- ☐ Oct. 25- CME Danbury Hospital - trauma
- ☐ Oct 27- Funeral for the mother of Lt. John Gillotti and DFM Marilyn Gillotti
- ☐ Oct. 27 – State Regional Fire School Education Committee meeting
- ☐ Nov. 2- Retirement dinner for Lt. Ken Stilson Jr.
- ☐ Nov. 3- critique for the Wooster Hts. plane crash with the PD and Airport Admin.
- ☐ Oct 28, Nov 9,16 Mentor at Rogers Park Middle school

Apparatus/Equipment - Joe Cavo

All of the Departments' 4 Gas meters were calibrated this month. The O2 sensor in E-22's meter was replaced. All meters are in service. The 09FX "Special Response" has been repaired once again. This past months failure was light bar/siren related but not an issue with the Whelen products. The emergency master solenoid failed long enough for us to "catch it in the act" so to speak. It has been replaced and so far..... Our 2nd surplus engine left with the successful bidder to Northern Ontario Canada. The alternator failed prior to it leaving and was rebuilt. Truck-1 had its lift cylinder replaced and the engine oil leak repaired. This month the Apparatus Division prepared and submitted its 2012/2013 budget requests.

Other repairs completed:

- Service 06FX1, 06FX2 and 03FT3.

- Replaced the rear struts and sway bar bushings in 03FT3.
- Replaced the upper and lower ball joints in 03PT.
- Replaced tires on 06FX1, 06FX2, 03FT2, 03FT3 and 01CT.
- Replaced all D.O.T. lights on E-26
- Replaced front rotors and pads on 97F2.
- Replaced scene light lens on E-22.
- Repaired multiple S.C.B.A. units.

Community Risk Reduction Office of the Fire Marshal - James Johnson

Reported illegal occupancies were identified thru UNIT inspections. This resulted in 2 inspection(s) for unsafe occupancy (basement/attic); all situations have been resolved or are about to be concluded. This months' Fire Prevention consisted of several programs for elderly at Wooster Manor and Putnam Towers. We also did a program for Sears' employees. The late October snow storm slowed our Fire Prevention Month program delivery. We are finishing the couple of schools that were missed.

Fire Marshals completed 30 hours of continuing education for annual Fire Marshal Certification. Jordan Leach attended a two day course at the Ct. Fire Academy on Investigation of Youth Set Fires. Ongoing projects include meetings for Boehringer-Ingelheim, BLT and Toll Brothers projects. During the report period our office investigated several fires, happily with no injuries reported.

Department Statistical Reports

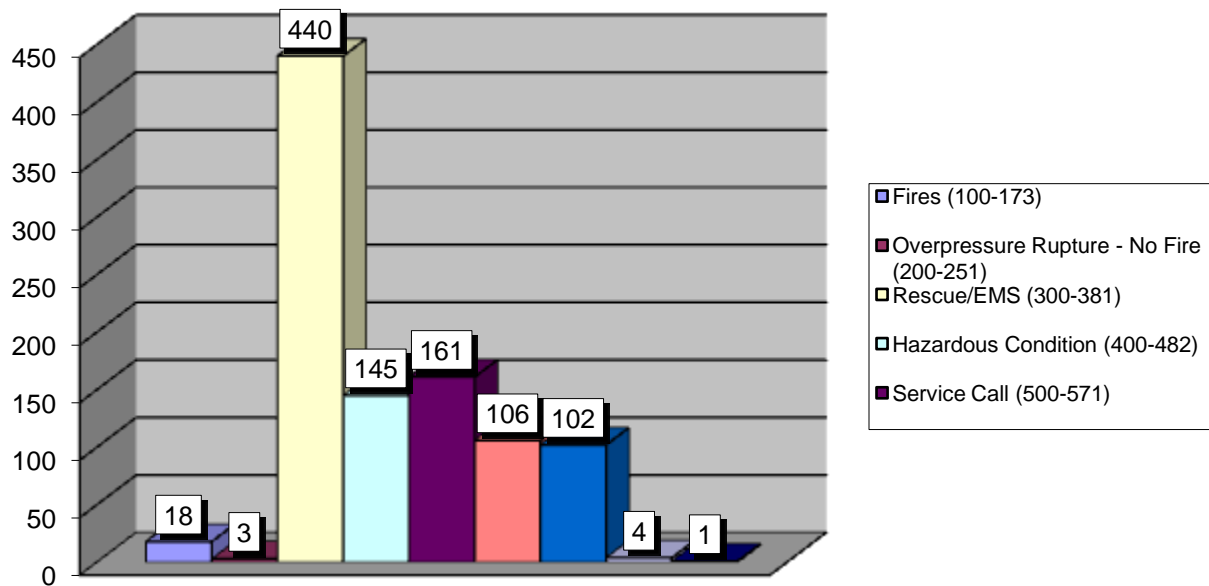
Monthly Breakdown NFIRS Ver 5.0 Coding	
No Report/Incomplete	58
Fires (100-173)	18
Overpressure Rupture - No Fire (200-251)	3
Rescue/EMS (300-381)	440
Hazardous Condition (400-482)	145
Service Call (500-571)	161
Good Intent Calls (600-671)	106
False Alarm/False Calls (700-746)	102
Severe Weather/Natural Disaster (800-815)	4
Special Incident Type (900-911)	3
Total Fire Responses	1040
E911 Statistics	
Total 911 Calls	4008

Abandoned 911 Calls	445
Cellular 911 Calls	2250
911 Hang Up Calls	844
Admin Calls Received	1172
Police Calls via 911	352
Fire Calls via 911 (CAD 28)	228
EMS Calls via 911 (CAD 29)	285
Daily Average	143.14
Dispatch Incident Statistics	
Total Fire Responses	1040
Total EMS Responses	882
Unknown Transport Status	15
ALS Patient (CAD 60)	328
BLS Patient (CAD 61)	357
No Patient (CAD 62)	165
EMS Mutual Aide Requests (CAD 80)	3
EMS Calls Passed to Backup (CAD 81)	14

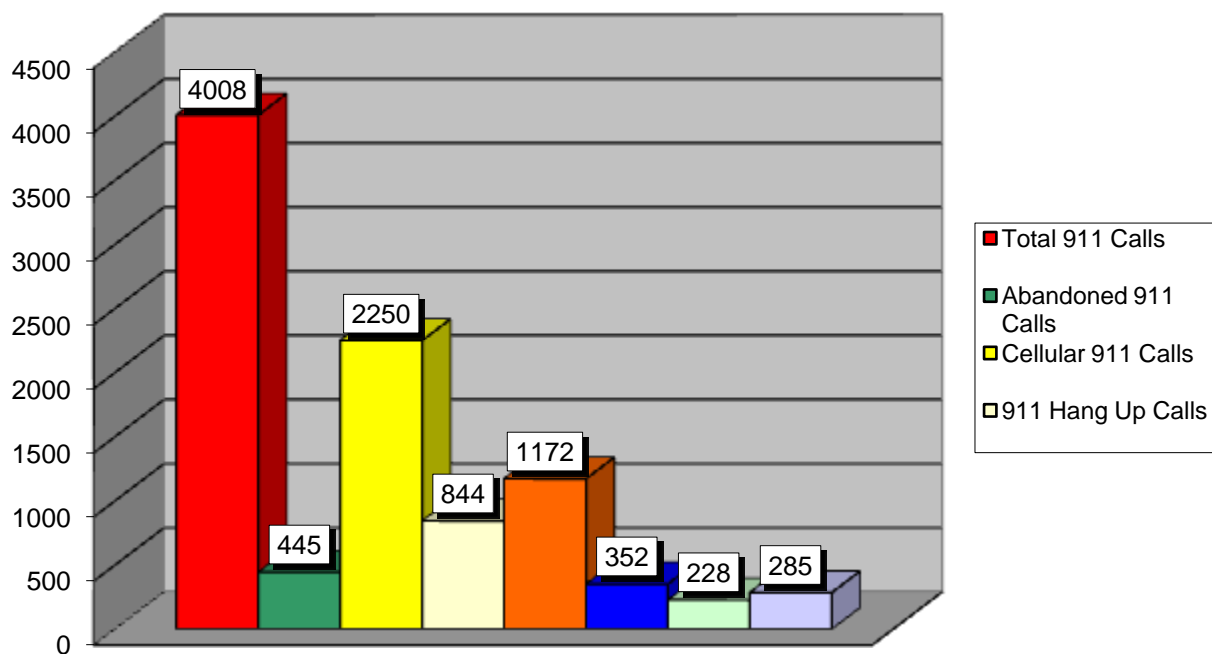
**** NOTE ****

Multiple 911 Calls received for
Fire And EMS

Fire Response Breakdown October 22 to Nov 20,2011



911 Center Activity October 22 to Nov 20, 2011



Inspections

Amount

Apartments	387
Business	20
Day Care	7
Education	5
Fuel Trucks	2
Hazmat (Tank Install)	1
Health Care	2
Hotel (Rooms)	106
Industrial	0
Liquor	13
Mercantile	28
Misc.	28
Place of Assembly	20
Res. Board & Care	0
Rooming House	1
Service Stations	1
Special Structure	2
Storage	0
TOTAL	623

Topics

Amount

Abatement/Reports (Hrs.)	50
Blasting Permits	4

Burn Permits		2
Complaints		16
Cont. Ed. Hours		36
Fatal Fires		0
Fire Investigation		6
Fire Safety Prgms.		14
Meetings (Hrs)		14
Office Duty (Hrs.)		187
Orders of Abatement	2	
Plan Review (hrs.)		55
Tickets Issued	8	
	TOTAL	
	HRS.	342